American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
July 26, 1927–September 20, 1927

Box Number: 1

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Sotai Beach
July 26, 1927

My dearest Mumsie Mine:

Saturday I got Eula's letter off yours is a wee bit late - I'm sorry too but will try to get yours off so you won't be disappointed over a letter - The days fly so fast & are so full of study - a swim, - to bed early with a few extras put in. It is glorious clear weather now and clear blue water & pretty sails & lovely sunsets. I do so appreciate being here more & more each day as it is so cool - tho a bit warm - compared with the towns in land.

We have been well & are so thankful for that blessing. Little Elsie who came with us has been sick ever since her arrival - & is still very sick! Her mother came last week & relieved the girls who were nursing her during their vacation. It has been such a relief & Anna surely has let off steam

1) since + we've had lot of fun + sheer nonsense + silliness.

Last Sat. we had rather a unique experience - to me at least. The Underwoods have private wealth + a fine big house + car etc. They sent around the news of a tea on the Beach - bathing suits to be the costume from 4-6 - All, tho, wear a kind of turkish toweling cape down to the beach from home - so here were a few tables for tea to be served from, big umbrellas + about half of the crowd in caps - suits + these capes. It was funny we paid our respects to the hostess + host - (also clad in bathing suits behind presiding tables + chatted a while, drank tea + ate doughnuts + departed for a swim.

Sunday has been quite full have been helping with the babies class but from now on another girl will take it who hasn't any other demand on her time. I'm glad as I hadn't time to fix handwork etc for them.

3) This is now Sunday the 30, Sorry
my letter has been delayed. These
last few days have been hot!
whew! hadn't any pep + I got
a wee touch of diorreha —
so haven't studied nor gone out but just
rested + feel refreshed for it.
I think I said Anna's vacation
was only for July + so she expect-
ed to leave Miss Dorriss's + I to
go to Sarah + Betty's house — Joy be
Anna has one more month + so
we've gotten another room +
are just the two of us there. Miss
Dorriss had so many others come in +
we were too full there — besides
our bargain was over. Now we
have a room with a married
couple at the other side of
the point just a the edge
of the big round cresent
like beach! Nearer the
center of affairs + very
comfy. So all things
work together for good.
It will work out soon.
I think that eventually we
will have a studyroom as they
after a week will have another
upstairs room we'll take + use
the present one as a study.
The question of a place to
study here has surely been
a problem! Only a sense of

4] humor has saved the day!
Really, it has been most amusing
Miss D. was too small for it —
so first P.M. we went to the
grove, then tried it in Miss D.
house, next day over on a
porch of an empty house - this
worked well, till rains drove
us away from there; then I got
the Key to Sarah's little house & we
studied there a few day till the
girls came; then another porch
was O.K. till they decided to
repair the floor; then Anna began
to study so that was 2 x the prob-
lem. A friend had the Key of
another cottage - so we went
there - blissful for 4 days -
till the family came - Then
Mrs. Underwood said we
could study on the apartment
porch. These apartments were
condemned & no one lives in them
I told the girls as surely as I
went there they'd either start
repairing them or tear them
down & sure for certain - we
were there two days & lo the
men arrived to tear it
down. It just got scream-
ingly funny - Someone said

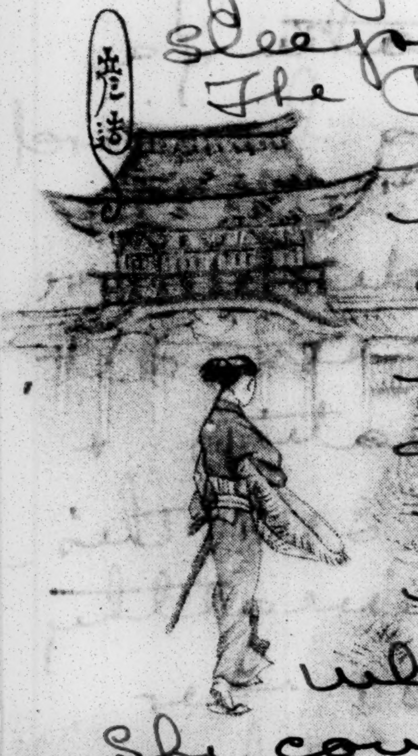
5] I ought to be an honorary member of the property improvement committee — for as sure as I went near a place it began to be repaired. One man jokingly said for me to steer clear of his house as he had no money to spend!! Then, we went back to the "porch" whose floor at last was repaired for a few days + then to the grove + now since we're moved I will have to find another porch needing repairing or another grove! Mr. Wang counted our moves + we moved so far 9 times in 3 weeks! I had no idea of this kind of problem — or we'd tried at first to rent a room. But it surely has been a funny experience. The morning greeting is "Where shall we study this morning?" I think

I rest a week now in this great heat + if possible stay on here a couple of weeks in September. Nothing would suit me better! I'd love it just to stay here till we know

6) what the winter plans will bring forth. Did I tell you there is an attempt to get the Language School back to China - either to Tsingtao or Cheefoo (Grace Haver is at the latter) I hope we can I can see such a difference in not being able to use what we learn - but in that too all things work for good too. Time will tell - a la Ray "add an element of time".

We are out now on back steps of the condemned apartments - Anna on one side + I on the other. There is a glorious breeze + Anna just revelling in it. She looks too funny as she is facing the building with her legs thru the steps using the floor for a table. In the church a little way off the Koreans are practising for a song night - or stunt night or something. My teacher is helping them. He surely has ability - can read any music right off - Yesterday since there I've not been studying he "is translating gospel songs +

7.) & chorus into Chinese. Yesterday he did that chorus "My Prayer" used at Daddy's Funeral - & "Somebody Knows when your heart aches". I am so glad to get these done. Social life is busy - a party for the 19 China "fleas" yesterday P.M. & a clam toast on the beach Friday eve. with a supper on the beach one night. The first two I didn't go too tho - haven't taken all in as one can't do everything - wait till I quit studying I promise myself, - what I won't do in sleeping & letter writing etc!



The Reynolds came down the last of last week & was so glad to see Ella again. She found a little blind hunchback on the street & found her father (only relative) had no use for her - so she begged & slept where night found her - She could see night from day - Ella talked to her & she readidly consented to go with her - They took her to a M.E. school for the Blind. Ella said it was quite a procession She & Sara with this little blind hunchback & a great crowd at

8] Koreans following to see what would happen. They'd call out to the little girl; "The foreigners have you you're in luck!" "Isn't it wonderful how they will care for her," etc. Ella gave her a name + a birthday the date of finding her + said she'd been back to see her - All cleaned up + sewing - she'd learned before she went blind at six. They hope now to operate + she may be able to see! Isn't it sweet!

Marguerite, is having such a nice vacation. She is in N.Y. at National Bible Institute ~~taking~~ a medical course looking forward to Medical work with lepers. She left the Hospital as moral conditions were so terrible she couldn't stand it. She had no money for vacation + needed work + the Lord sent this - giving companion to a wealthy Christian woman of 80 + her invalid brother of 60 - They went in their car to a big lake not far + are living in a nice hotel + having a great rest - and getting $60.00 a mo. Isn't that just exceed-

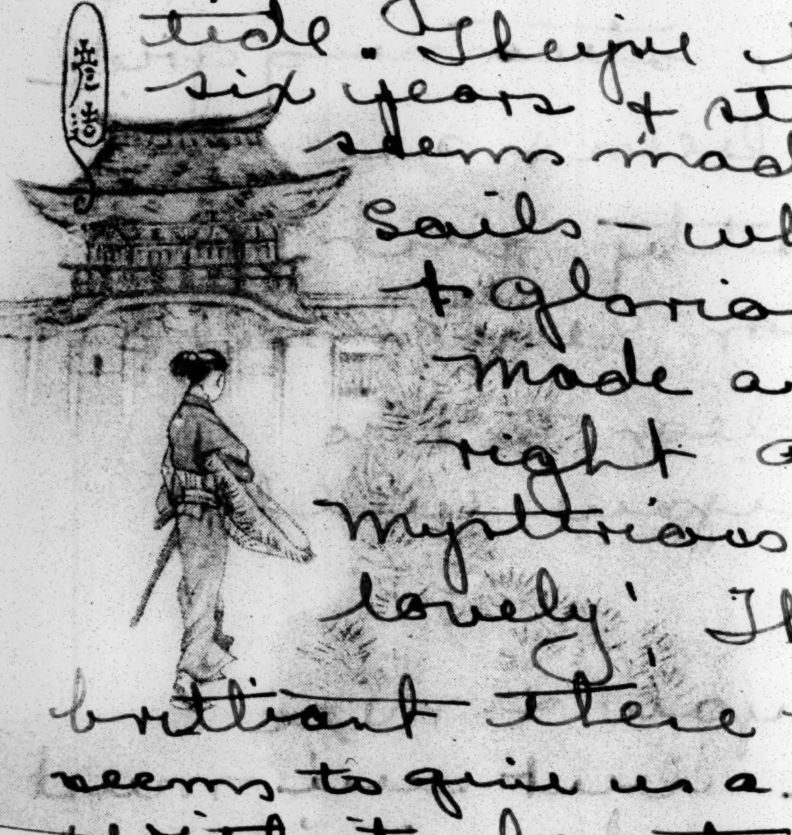
9] ing abundant above all one can ask or think!" It is such a sweet provision by the Master. Your good letter of July 4 written from Salem came by the 27 - so it surely made good time, glad you liked the little bag - it wasn't much but hope you'll use it not save it Bessie will laugh at my giving such advice. Glad the estate managing is going well etc; How rejoiced I am to know the result of the blood test & that you are well precious Mother mine!! Do be careful, & rest lots; Was interested in the proposition of Mrs. Blackburn. You surely don't want that with a mortgage — I am sure the church at Woodburn feels the great loss of so many. I pray that the others will just get under the burden in a real way. Are Butterfield's still there? Has Frank come back. I am glad the Hansens were so nice to you! I have thought since you say you can't go there to church - about Mrs. Moshberger - who has stayed away so long. I never really understood why but too as I remember while others criticised her

10] for it - you didn't. But we do surely have to go thru the experience to really sympathize at all. I do hope she is feeling more comforted now — her example now to the others will mean much, as soon as she can go back.

So glad Josephine is better now + that George is so fine!! I hope Aunt Callie will get work + am glad she is out of that place - it surely was hard on her there. The Father promises that widows + fatherless shall not be forsaken, so I trust Him to supply her needs. I hope Earl will go on + make good now! He surely can help some. Maybe Aunt C. can be with him in Halsey. If the picture is just of flowers not of the coffin mother you may send one please. The other I couldn't bear that yet — Thank you. Thank Bessie for her note. I'm thinking as I write she must be off with Bud on a nice trip - + I do hope + pray it will be a lovely one for both! How is the job paying financially! Finely, I hope. There must be something to make up for the

11] separation involved. I do hope her Kimono arrives O. K + not too much duty on it; The duty is a problem for folks here unless people send packages under $5 gold in value + in separate mails - 2 weeks apart -

The mist is coming up from the sea + clouds coming in. I wonder if our two weeks of rain is about to be repeated - The view from our new cottage is so fine - The big old sampans with ... white sails come in to dig out this lovely white sand at low tide. They've taken it for six years + still little impression seems made. Last night the sails - white breakers - + glorious Venus - later made a silver path right across to old Mysterious Island + it was lovely! That star is surely brilliant these nights - this spot seems to give us a peak into heaven with its beauty. Prayer meetings + Sunday Eve. sings are held out on the point with water all around + glorious sunsets in view in a rather natural slope like an amphi-



12) Prayer meeting one week had rather a funny ending a man was praying and big drops of threatening rain began to fall - & as if by one word the whole group rose en masse & in perfect silence left. Like the poem "folded their tents like the Arabs & silently stole away". We never did hear how long he prayed on in the rain!! We didn't leave a mite too soon either!

Dearest Mumsie mine, I must close & go back for supper. In this is the check endorsed. How I praise God for you dearest Mother mine, for your saintlike spirit & sweetness; for the bravery in cheer under stunning grief for all you've been & are to me but mostly just for your own dear sweet self. God use you dear to His glory & keep you well & strong -

How I love you & miss you dear — but we must learn the joy of the privilege of "suffering with Him" —

All my love dearest Mother
Irene

Love to all, Bud & Bes. Ray & Eula & families. I convulsed the girls with Margie's brilliance

Gorai Beach
Monday. Aug 15-37

My dearest Onew:

Your letter just must not wait one more day! I do want to get it off this afternoon. Have not written for over a week - but hope you havn't been worried over the delay! Have had a little touch of dysentery so for a couple of weeks have been resting lots + not going out at all. Havn't been very sick - none of the specimens showed dysentery at all but it was a wee bit the Dr. thought accompanied by awful nausea - which made it impossible to eat much. However these past few days that is over, so can eat eggs, milk and cocoa so will soon be back to usual pep! Haven't studied for over two weeks - Have been just sick enuf not to study + have a good rest - sleep !! my middle name - sleep late in a.m. - perhaps an hour in the morning + from 2-3 hours in afternoon + then rest some more. The Father knew what I needed

4 and that I'd not be willing to take time off in the middle of the term's work just to rest so allowed just enuf of an illness to make me rest but not to be serious! It has been during the hottest days so its a lovely time to have the vacation as the heat has been intense even here! What must it have been in ~~those~~ inland towns. All reports are of a very dry hot summer! How thankful I wasn't up at the Language School to be thinking of the class getting ahead + in the heat. This way I'll just keep my teacher two or three weeks longer + finish I think in good time for whatever the fall has in store. Sept 2 or 3 we will return to Pyengyang + from there will go or stay or obey the next order.

How sweetly the Master does lead! I am sure I wrote you about moving to another room! In fact we've got a separate

Love Jeanie
[illegible]

3] room upstairs which look out over the bay + gets all the breezes - far more room than at Miss Dorris's + such privacy. Then we have a room downstairs for a study. I wrote you about our wild funny experience getting a nook to study in - as soon as we moved here, here we have this nice cool room where we can study - I myself haven't used it much but Anna + her teacher have + its a relief to have a corner to go to when you do want to.
Several nights ago all the unmarried women had a picnic down at the beach and it surely was fun! There I met a Miss McKee whom I had met up on that week-end visit. She pointed out to an island in the bay + told me this most interesting incident. In the early days Mrs. Underwood was the first white woman to visit it + since then only two more + she was one of those two. When she was a Volunteer in a church meeting in Cal. + Mrs. Underwood was on furlough, ~~a[illegible]~~ telling about Korea and this visit to this island where there was quite a large group of Christians. She said

4] their leave taking was just like that in the Bible where Christians went to shore, prayed & wept. Mrs. Underwood's story impressed her so much! Mr. Underwood at the same time made such an appeal that a man in the church volunteered the support of a new missionary to Korea & they called for a volunteer & Miss McKee herself volunteered & was assigned to this very province & in later years also visited this same island and was given the same kind of farewell! Wasn't that an interesting bit of history & how the Lord leads!

On Aug. 5 - & I wasn't up but on the 6 Mrs. Lyons had a lovely big birthday cake with candles and ice cream - It was a lovely surprise! Surely was sweet of them to think of it!! Speaking of birthdays - brings me to the most important part of this letter. Your letters of ~~July~~ 13 & 18 came all at once - & I just reveled in them!! Such good letters & items in a few

5] more days came the little pin! Mother darling, I do so appreciate it! More than words can say - at first from your letter I kept thinking it was the black cameo Daddy Si used to wear - & was sure tho it couldn't be - so wasn't at all sure what it was, I was so surprised to get this - as I had supposed of course one of the boys would want it as a watch fob! It surely is precious to me & oh there is so much meaning & sentiment to it - I'm so glad you had it set with yours instead of just a new pin - for it just seems to be a symbol to me of both you & Daddy Si - my precious Mumsie & Father - inseparable & still united in Christ - the two who have meant so so much, - more than I can ever fully realize even, - to me & who have given me all I am - by the Master's leading. It means oh such a lot to me to have it - just as you've so sweetly planned it for me. Receiving this - has brought in a new & real way to me the reality that Daddy has gone up to wait for us there still with the two parts - a sweet comfort comes - "still united". I do thank

6] your mother mine for sending it to me as you did – It was sweet of the others to say it should be mine. I can think of nothing I'd rather love – tho I hadn't thought of it before particularly. I love it as you've send it – with this such a dear association. Thank you Mumsie – It was so sweet of you to think of it for me.

You shouldn't have sent the check mother dear, – I fear you robbed yourself! Honey you must not! You said you hoped it would cover duty! It did. That with make 50 yen. I had to pay 11 yen duty. It was awfully high – tho it might have been reduced because it was a gift & not new goods the office here couldn't change it & I feared risking sending it to Seoul as it might be returned to you, even so I gladly give the duty – because of its value to me. Tho as to real gold value 11 yen is absurd! However we won't worry about it. See they took your 5. gold + I paid

7) 100% duty. You asked me to tell you - or I wouldn't have mentioned it. I hate to mix that angle of it with itself + the gift + its meaning. For I don't know when any gift has ever meant so much to me. I've been learning something about duty since coming here. See this awful duty is put on to American goods - as result of our exclusion clauses etc + Japan wants to boost her own manufacturing. Never value anything with idea of its insurance or covering value for loss. It won't, + it only makes duty higher. Value should be under five gold, + mark it gift - not for sale. This case would have been true to say "second hand jewelry" no commercial value. Of course this being gold is always dutiable, but if possible to depreciate the statement truthfully is is all right. If wearing apparel - I learn there the folks always get it worn there enough to be second hand in name etc. Such absurd charges are made. A woman in Seoul received a 5 lb. box of chocolates from U.S. and had to pay 22 yen duty - 100% - Mrs. Lyon

8) said once "used post cards" like the little girls ~~sent~~ me — came with value of 6 yen duty. She returned them. So for those cards I haven't had to pay for except forwarding money from China — but they must be sure to mark no value used cards. I want to write those girls soon but that Korean letter I want to send has been delayed in printing so will sent it as soon as I can get it.

Please don't let this "duty" discussion make you feel a bit ~~that I~~ less enjoyment in the sending the pin — nor worry that it has affected my joy in its receipt! Not the least — but just tell you as I learn a bit of these queer tapes. Am eager to know whether Bessie had to pay duty on her Kimona and how much! I do so hope she won't. It was so dear of you to send the pin + I love it so much honey!!

9] Thank you for the returned letter. It was a "thank-you" for a Moody commencement gift; Imagine all this time! Marie Harrington's sister. She probably thinks I'm unappreciative.

Bless your dear heart Mumsie - you've been so faithful writing every week + I've gotten all or most of the letters - I meant as you thought - it was waiting for news + details of Father's death - She it was July! - about then that I began to feel I knew about so many things I'd wondered about - I meant the wait between the cable + those letters! No one could be more darling about writing than you Lovey, + I did not mean it in the least that you weren't - it was the other!

I am glad Lovey you are so nicely settled with Roy + Eula + know how good they will be to you. Bless the babies who think must be so good to "Grandma"! You can be such a help to Eula + for the babies to have you will be a precious heritage + memory.

That's nice you had a visit from Clyde + Uncle Bert's. What is Clyde doing if he away from the cottage farm. Where is Mabel, is she married - to whom?

10 I remember Mrs. Swope always liked the buffet - that was best to seel it & the table. Is the blue & rose rug in Eula's living room? & piano lamp? & candle sticks? What about the over stuff chairs we had in that room & the blue rug on living room floor. & the blue & rose vases?

Bud & Bessie & you all are off on vacation somewhere! I am so glad! I do ask our Father to make it a wonderful month for each of you wherever it may be. I can't decide where you will go.

I hope Bud & Bessie get to Crater Lake this year! & how I hope they'll have a gloriously happy carefree time. They've had some pretty big burdens along! Does Aunt Callie live with Glenn & Josephine or where? Cannery work is hard but at least will give her a change!!

Mummie we've so much to be grateful for Lovey, & His grace is sufficient!! Mrs. Scribe's father I hadn't known of before. It is too bad! Many things are worse than death - aren't they?

11] Anna Reist is a girl I met at N. Y. at conference who is assigned to Pyengyang Korea. She is a perfectly lovely girl + we're such kindred spirits - I love to be with her. Her home is in Pa. She has the blackest hair, + red cheeks + snappiest big black eyes you can imagine. She is as true + fine as steel + gold just, with such a lot of fun in her. It has been such a precious six weeks we've had together. These last two more so than the first - I was busy then and then now staying home quietly I've had more time to visit + talk + just to be together. Truly the Lord lead me to Pyengyang to the Reynolds' + to Anna for this difficult yet precious time. - precious for an increased dependence on Him + increased faith + realization of sufficiency of God.

I can't find any Mr. or Mrs. Wells in the Korea missionary directory. - Sorry! Thank you for the newspaper clipping! They were interesting. Schreiber's will be glad to go there I imagine. Hope Mr. Faggans will be well liked. Was his fear there very hard - from catholics - as some feared? Sorry Aunt Clara has,

12] not been well! Am glad you're getting a rest - am so glad to know the little details of your life - so I can picture there - + I like the lavender dress - It is sweet! Know you'll look well in it too! What bed room furniture have you in your room - you told me of the dining room curtains. Have you a desk - ours was such a find - better get one - to make your writing easy! I was amused at the many dresses! I expect Clyde couldn't tell which was he + which reflection!! Yes dear, I surely think all you've done is most wise + I just pray you'll be happy!! + contented!

Have been playing a good deal this week on the guitar + trying to get free of notes but to hear the changes + play more songs. Since I'm not studying Mr. Wang is translating those choruses + songs. I get such a thrill out of singing them in Chinese! Many are talking of going back to Peking + to China. We've heard that there

September 9, 1927
Seoul, Korea

My Precious Loved Ones;
My! are you thinking I deserted you for good + always. I
missed a week writing! Am sorry + to the best of my ability
won't let him happen again - if you'll forgive me!
I wrote last from Sorai Beach + now I'm in Seoul the
capital of Korea. Are I a wanderer. Oo? I can't be
exactly sure of the date of my last letter - but
maybe I can recall the most important events in be-
tween. We stayed on there till the 31 of August -
even after our landlady left - but boarded at
another place for a few days. Such gloriously fine
days we had! The sunsets + blue sea + all. Really
it is one of Nature's glory spots! I love it there. While
in a few ways I might look on the two months
there as a failure - I'll explain later - in the
biggest of all of importance, I feel there was very
great blessing. See right after Father's death -
all spring but especially then - as if to keep

2] my mind occupied + to help to lose the hurt of it, it was also my work to be done + my duty — I just studied furiously on the Chinese, I did too all three July till it was very hot + I developed what they called dysentery — for want of better name then — See I had to rest and to lean even harder on Himself for comfort and peace. Not that I wasn't before but in a much deeper way. Then Anna was such fun + how we laughed + joked + played — it was the very best for me along with the other. helped to relax the tension. Isn't it sweet to look back and see how marvelously in little details our Master leads! The big things so far above us we must trust Him for but His attribute of infinite tenderness and love shown in the little details just are so sweet! So I came from Sorai with a new healed spot and new comfort in my heart for which I can only praise Him,

3] I expect the keenness of the hurt will never go but just as deep the hurt, the deeper + more sufficient His grace. That's what I mean by the biggest blessing. The failure part is I did not complete the fourth term's work — but at first I cared much (mostly hurt selfish pride) but that I will be able to do in a few weeks later + isn't anything at all serious to have it delayed for a time — I'm not the only one — and it could easily — i.e. I mean — that much time previously lost in leaving S. School which I just didn't overtake — but that is all right. I'm not worried over it. I didn't study after July 28 — but part of the time the teacher came + we just talked — I've gained more in this line as a result for we talked about almost everything. (Anyway, I didn't realize I was in such an analytic mood when I began) He is so fine + such a splendid Christian. He translated almost all of my choruses while I didn't study — these too will be invaluable — haven't had a Christian teacher before + I've surely enjoyed him. He enjoyed Sorai too + did some real work at witnessing to the Chinese

3] the little store there. Taken all in all I feel it very worth while. This doesn't count the inspiration of living in such a group of consecrated, fully sound, earnest workers + to love the good clean fun, sports + fellowship with them.

After I wrote you I took the exam on 200 Chinese characters — in writing them! Haven't heard so far the result! ¶ There is such an interesting story about the Korean cook's little girl (where we lived) I feel that I didn't tell you — tho maybe I did — but at risk of repetition I'll retell it if I have told you just omit this + pardon it!

She was about ten I guess + so happy + peppy, with a winning smile + bright black eyes. Her mother, as she called her, was out in a country village visiting once + a heathen mother had died, and the father ran away leaving this little girl baby. They were ready to bury her with the dead mother when this woman interposed + the Christians all protested —

5] At length they consented to give this little baby to her and she took her home. This is the little girl who helped serve us — wait on the table, care for the babies etc. She has a very fine voice and can sing really awfully well! The mother works for Mr. + Mrs. W. B. Lyon page 31 of the prayer book. The S.S. kiddies may be interested in this story.

After I wrote you last the trouble returned again and so we decided that I should come to Seoul to find out really what it was. We went to Pyengyang first. Sara + I helped get the Reynolds house all straightened around before they came + then as Sara had to come up here we took a train + slept all the way. Saw Dr. Martin next a.m. He is a Canadian Presbyterian representative in the Union Medical work of Severance Hospital and just perfectly splendid. I liked him so from the first + feel such confidence in him. He surely was lead of God as he first put his finger on the trouble at once + all the tests, X-rays etc. have proved it + my great improvement is the best test at all! It isn't dysentery of any kind and

6] I am truly glad - because that is hard to cure & returns most easily in the orient & might mean I'd a tendency for it - he found my tummy short of the necessary hydrochloric acid - an upset from corn & beans to begin with - & at Sorai I took dysentery medicine & this neutralized all the acid I had; cut out fruits & lived on Klim & toast & that didn't add to the acid only took what I had away - & gave the seeming dysentery symptoms. Here he has given me that acid as medicine, & fruit, peaches, bananas & tomatoes & regular diet & I'm a new person. Have been at the hospital - still am - for ease of treatment & observation - & to get required food - not that I'm horribly sick. Somehow our idea of going to hospital here in orient & at home are so different because of conditions. At home we could do all in our homes & by office calls etc, while here - boarding one can't dictate diet & it saves the Drs. & your time & all to stay right there. I've gone into

7] this much detail to help you to understand + not be all worried over the word hospital. Too I could have written almost nothing of my condition but I expect frankness + information from that side + I trust you to tell me + so I'll play fair + tell you. I hesitated at first because it will be over so long before you get this + because I'm away may cause you alarm + written things have a way of sounding awfully serious - but I knew you'd be still trusting after as before, in His care who never fails + thru all things brings blessings. Do not worry - as Dr. Martin says its a simple matter of not a complicated diet and a week of rest + I'll be fit as a fiddle. Now you know that part I can tell you all the sweet blessings + nice parts I couldn't have told without the first. I have a nice cheery room with dresser, two tables + chair + look out from one window on the new wing that is being built. Dr. Avison was home 3 yrs getting the money. The more I see of these mission hospitals especially, don't know quite so much about the other side, I feel truly they are built of consecrated bricks;

8] I love to look at those new walls + think of the love + sacrifice that has come with them. There surely seems to be a fine Christian spirit here. I hear the carpenters across the court singing + whistling hymns - some of them the men's means Chinese too I know - early in the morning I am wakened with some familiar hymn tune + Korean words - morning chapel sometimes - others its the evangelistic group going thru. There is such a sweetness and gentleness about these oriental peoples - one can't help but love - The nurses are little Koreans with bright black eyes + black hair. They are so sweet! One darling nurse I have - talks quite a little English - at first sight all I could see were the deep deep small pox scars on her face - but now I don't see them + even they have a certain beauty - I just love her + we have such fun. I have my guitar here + she comes in + we sing + laugh - tho most of the time I can't tell what she says nor she what I say.

9] She has learned two choruses in English + taught me many Korean words! Another of whom I'm very fond can't understand anything but my hand signs — but we too have good times! Have been to a Korean dentist and had splendid work done, too — he is so clean + careful! I'm surely enjoying these contacts.

This is most amusing — These windows of the new wing are very close to mine + I get so tickled — at the workmen + others who find the most pretexts to be at that window — to look over here — I looked up + catch them watching but they're pretty cute about it! "Especially when I eat they get a show"! If they enjoy me as much as I do them — they are welcome. When I first thought of coming up here — I thought, "I won't know anyone, have flowers or visitors" — but have had so many unexpected calls + bouquets of flowers + all. Again the sweet little provisions of the Father. Such love! He surely is Big beyond all conception to provide for such little details seemingly — yet nothing is little which concerns the least one of His children and their happiness! A lady we met at

10] Sorai has asked me to her home when I leave here, isn't that sweet? I'll stay here in Seoul for a little sight-see & shopping & then to Pyengyang about ten days - and then hold you breath!

Back to China!! The present plans are to spend the "winter in Tsingtao that old German port of Shantung but since returned to China - there we will be perfectly safe! The collapse of the South may detain the advance a year or more & we can leave at any time from there. The foreign teachers are going back to Ginling College at Nanking - so if even there they can return - the North which has been safe all the time, will be all right. Do not take this as final but it seems to be a choice of Cheefoo, Tsingtao & Peking the latter most unlikely as I have to change dialect so the Tsingtao order is the most sure. We will go, at present plans,

11) the first week in October sometime, probably by boat, maybe by Tientsin – I'd love to go by as Ernald Strange, Moody friend, of C.I.M. from North west China is there – It would be fun to see him (P.S. This is to make Roy cock his head on one side & wink knowingly)! But there's no need yet to get excited! 他不是一个女子人 . See if the "Digest" can help you translate that!

Mumsie dear, your letter of Aug 7 came the night we left Pyengyang telling of your trip to Sisters, am so glad you went & had a nice trip. I am glad too that Aunt Callie had a little vacation – she would enjoy it so, and Clyde too! I'd like to see him, what is he doing since leaving the farm? Has Aunt Callie work now? It was good to hear about your trip & the details I followed – the longafter – all the way. It was sweet of some of you to think of me & speak of my liking this or that, Packing in the old Dodge for a jaunt is hard to beat!! Sorry Aunt Glennie is not well!!

12] I was so delighted over Winfield's catching a fish!! Just thrilled to my toes!! Bless their hearts! Wouldn't they make pretty good snaps about now? Seems to me they ought! Am eager to hear of the coast trip! and wondering if it wasn't to Marshfield you went. I've heard that it is such a wonderful place - Am so glad you could go on a nice trip some place!

Mother, about the church's supporting me - was that an official notice you told me before not to speak of it to them & is that silence still to be or will they tell me themselves. It is just that I want to know how to proceed. Isn't it wonderful that it can be. I do like so much better being somebody's missionary instead of the general fund's! It is the same I guess but lacks a personal touch. It surely is fine to be owned & by Ray & Eula's folks!!

Your other letter that came to Seoul - telling of the Hodges's gesture

13 going bed it in the other suitcase so I'll answer it later, if there's anything I've overlooked. Tell Bessie I know just how she felt – I've several memories of things happening – the most vivid, our fire in Salem – weren't we up to band concert – I forget whether Mrs. W. was with us or not. Are you going to keep the Dodge numbers mine – you spoke something of its not selling if the gears weren't fixed. Do as you like best – if you feel freer to go with it keep it tho in the winter you'd get less joy out an open car.

Do you know yesterday was Sept 8. a year ago I left Seattle. That is one year gone; in some ways so quickly & in others not. It has been a precious year tho but one so different. I wonder what is in the year ahead – but we're safe if His Presence go before us. P.M. Have slept + had a banana + grape juice for afternoon tea + feel so good. Want to work on a poem for the little Korean lady who assists the dentist, her little baby girl one year old just died she told me yesterday. She has four boys (great blessings to the Korean mind – but she is so sad for the

14) little girl. She speaks English very well. - said they had her baptized three days before she died.

Write still to Pyengyang until you hear of me in Tsingtao because events change so rapidly that before Oct. there may be another plan. Please do not worry about me one speck - before you get this I'll be all fine & still with my big appetite -

I want to enclose this poem which Anna read to me & I loved it so! We do have so much to be glad for and He knows all about it & us! We must trust His keeping for just the next step of the way!

Goodbye dear ones with lots & lots of love to all. I haven't answered a one of that big pile of letters but friends still must be patient. The Korean letter at last is off the press so I can send it when Ella mails them to me! Sorry Bessie had to pay duty. I wanted it to be a gift not a purchase.

Lots & lots of love to all,

Your wandering baby girl.

Irene

13 are thirty new applicants for the Language School at Peking which will open Oct. 3. whether we'll be sent back or not - I've no idea. Mr. Wang said this a.m. that Feng-Yu-Hsiang is near Peking - having joined the Nationalist (conservative) group and that sounds good! However fighting is it over in N. China. We'll see + He still leads + guides,

Last night was a big stunt night - all dressed in nutty costumes + had funny stunts It was very clever + funny! We had several good laughs at the fun. I'd not heard this one before. The chairman of evening (Dr. Erdman of Princeton brother - who is so fine + so clever - such a line of jokes he had - "There has been many a true sentence uttered thru false teeth" Cilla that should comfort you!

Well, I've written all thru my sleeping time + I'm beginning to nod. Will put the last bit on after I sleep!! Now after two hours sleep I feel a bit more

14 spry. I was thinking mother you'd be interested in the great variety of our source of food here. There

14] is a splendid Korean garden - with foreign seeds + foreign supervision so such a lot of nice vegetables - butter comes in tin cans from Australia - also some from California + Canada - we got a bottle of lemon juice compound from Australia. The cheapest + best soap we get comes from France - castile - spices + flavoring from England - Klim (powdered milk from America) carnation milk, Del monte fruit of course lots of Japanese products - canned Jap. salmon. flour either from U.S. or Manchuria, kind cheap cutlery Eng. - so we're truly cosmopolitan. Corned beef from Argentine + sugar candy from Russia.

Dearest ones - will close now with all my love to you precious ones. Lots of love + Roy & Eula + babes & my best regards to the good friends in the church who have been praying for me. If you write Woodburn give them my love. Thank you again mumsie mine for the precious birthday gift - it just means so much - May the Father be richly present + give you the sweetness of His constant presence + bless the work of the church in Roseburg!

Will write sooner next time + try not to miss a week again. I am well - do not worry about me - by the time this reaches you - I'll be fine!!! Thank you again + lots + lots of love dearest ones - Irene!

Seoul, Korea
Sept. 20. 27

My Precious Loved ones:

It is just a week since I wrote you. A week of constant re-gaining strength + health + also weight. I weighed this a.m. and I weigh more than before I went to Sorai and am feeling fine. I am going slowly + taking life easy and will for a while but rest perfectly easy. I am feeling fine

Last week I spent at the Severance Compound with a Mr. and Mrs. Tatum China refugees keeping house in Miss Shields' house. They are under the Southern Baptist Board, Mrs. Tatum was formerly of C.I.M + Canadian MB. They are quite an elderly couple and very interesting. He has been in China 39 years + she 25 I believe but married only seven years - (see this's still lapse!) They are a sweet couple - so in love + all! They were lovely to me! She just mothered me + came in to kiss me goodnight + was so sweet. The first day I didn't do much but rest. One day the Dr + a friend came for tea (She - Mrs Tatum - is Canadian so we had tea each day. Another day one of the little Korean nurses came over + we had a

2) walk + sang + played on the guitar. I went with them one night to Chinese church + I was just thrilled to my toes to be able to understand some of it. Such a nice Chinese lady was teaching Chinese women to read - a brief book about Christ, Holy Spirit and God.

Saturday I came out here to be with this friend. One Thurs. I went shopping + had your Christmas present mailed Mother dear. There should be no duty on it. They may not have marked it a gift + probably declared it in yen so if the postal authorities think it is gold the gold is just one half the yen value. I'm telling you so you can explain. I hate to have you get it so long before Christmas mumsie but had to send it while here. It is declared a box so you'll know that much - but give it to Roy + I'll trust him to keep it from you so you'll be sure to have it for the tree. It has gone on but I hope the letter will catch it - if no it won't matter

3) There has been a meeting of the federal council of of the missions working in Korea meeting here in Seoul this week and it has surely been interesting — I haven't gone to the meetings but the Clarks have had all their mission folks here for meals so it has lots of fun meeting the various ones - all such interesting people + many I've heard the Reynolds talk about so often. We've had a lot of fun joking about a certain Mr. Wynn a bachelor who lives with his sister who before has looked with disfavor on any one else single he looked at. Mrs. Reynolds has talked about him so much that we thought we knew him almost. He was here for several meals + we all went in his car several places - We've joked about the "boss being down" now because she said once as we got in - Some of you ride with my brother I can ride there any time; It has given us a good laugh any way. He really is very fine too - but China for me so don't be alarmed at our silly raving!

4) This is quite an interesting family I'm staying with - there is father ~~very finter~~ and two girls, and the sister who keeps house for them. It is so sad - the wife died + then the sister, Bessie, came with him + keeps house. A good many folks were speculating at Sorai this summer about the lot of single folks there - as to his choice - but he is engaged I think to a lady in America! Anyway it wouldn't be an easy place to fill. Bessie 's such a dear she ought to be named Belle - mother you know the characteristics we've always said went with that name - She is so kind + unselfish + was so faithful almost every day to come to see me at the hospital and then to ask me to live here these days when I had to be in Seoul. I surely do appreciate. Surely the mission-aries I've met ~~are so~~ kind + consid-erate + all. It has been a pleasure to come in contact with so many!

Thursday night there was a concert given by twenty-five

5| Russian - It was splendid. It has been described as a human orchestra or human pipe organ! It was surely real music. The directoress was a character!! All wore Russian holiday costumes and there was much glitter or tinsel + paste jewels - + strand after strand of "pearls" - but the effect was all right. They were so perfectly trained + voices so blended it just was perfect harmony!!

Today the Walters + Mary Donaldson of our Shantung mission will come thru Seoul from Diamond Mts. and I'll see them to make our arrangements for return to China. You'll have to get accustomed to new names soon for I'll soon be off to another group of folks. To make our plans + all is one reason I've waited here in Seoul. I guess if you write to me c/o Presbyterian Mission Tsingtao, Shantung, China I will get it all right. We will leave here on Oct 3. + 4 get to Chefoo. I'll see Grace Frazer, the moody friend I

we saw on the way out last fall for a few days. Guess I can't go by Tientsin after all Language class begins Oct 17.

I am so sorry to hear of Sarah's illness!! Her letter + two from you came to me Sunday here and I was glad to get them! Thank you for returning the letter. Am so glad Bud + Bes. got to Crater Lake at last!! Glad your coast trip was a success + tin all was so happy - + Mumsie had every salmon + trout! The light-house trip I know was interesting. Sarah said in her letter that the Dr. assured her those insulin injections cured. There is a little girl here who has diabetes, a doctor's daughter and they don't hope to do more than hold the disease + think she might go at any minute. She is apparently all right plays with others etc - but they've no hope for a cure. However it might be ~~I hope~~ it is because it is more advanced or was when they discovered it. I surely do hope it is a cure for her! I am so sorry. I did write a month ago + will again! Your telling about the old Dodge + how it didn't fail you in bad roads

7) its - stirred up a lost of memories of just such times before. Haven't we had fun in it tho + all manner of experiences! I was so interested in your account of the attempt to trade cars and then at the end to know that the dear old Dodge is gone. How one does get attached to a mere piece of machinery. Mumsie dear, I know how you felt at selling it and I feel as you - sort of one more familiar tie gone and less of home exists but dear you're surely right - its expensive sentiment + as you cannot use it yourself - The hundred dollars honey while not much as you say yet I know several years ago father said $300 would be about all one could get out of it - so your 100 isn't so bad. and I feel sure it is the best you could do or expect tho - of course it is actually worth more but that is the best I'm sure for you to do. That is fine to have that extra to have the grave fixed dear, you use it as you wish. Later please send me the picture of the flowers. I do want it. Hope Sam got a school! What did he do last year? Is there any hope of his going to M.B.I.? or Los Angeles? I am so sorry

8] Apol has been sick! I'm still hoping for those kids too for His service!
What a trip to Woodburn - + it must have been good to get back - as well as sad, Ella, honey I guess my bed that night was better but a bit bad even so - the nothing of lordship. Yes, it surely is best not to try to stay there. I can't feel as if I'd like to go at all. How hard on the church!! but as you say it makes others help! It will in itself be a blessing if it can get Mrs. Moshberger out of her grief + back for the others sakes! So glad she's helping in S.S.
It is nice they've not forgotten me! Wonder if Mrs. M. will just always teach there - guess they're fortunate to have that - I know they'd miss Mr. Logan in spite of the dislike of some for him.
That breaks my heart about Dorothy Cammack. I wonder if I'd just write a friendly letter if I could help! Oh its too bad!
Mrs. Williams! poor soul!!
I know Mrs. Van Cleave must be glad over that - she's had to

9/ come a way as the rest of us to be glad - I know at first she rather didn't want Raleigh for foreign! How we have to grow to see what God has for us & be ready & glad for what time brings! Where is Raleigh? Where is Mary going to train? How I enjoyed your newsy letter and all the details about everyone! If you just could keep on the market to buy a car you might get enuf free rides to satisfy & do all your work - That amused me about the agents fighting between themselves!

I sent the Korean letters last week & enclosed the others for you to mail. I had only the one card board to use so will ask you please to mail them I hope you can use them. For the Woodburn folks I wrote to church, Lightbearers & to Bethel, Gervais & Aurora separate letters, Have neglected writing all summer & Spring but hope now I can get some off.

10] Just dinner time so must close. & take this when we go downtown this P.M. so it won't be delayed longer.

Mr. Wang, my Chinese teacher, has been out a couple of afternoons and I've reviewed a bit but not much. He is so splendid & so true & fundamental in his belief & was telling me various ~~schools~~ bulletins they teach in China. He feels that the North China Theological Sem. in Tengchow is about the only one that isn't modern! He is teaching the Chinese school here & helping in Chinese church! It's been a blessing to have had this friendship & contact.

Must close now with heaps of love for the dearest & bestest family in the world! How I miss you - but still I am happy here & will be so glad to go back to China - I'll write next from the boat or Cheefoo -

Bye - God keep & use all of you - Much love -

Irene